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Gorham Normal School

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THE ORACLE

VOL. 7

GORHAM NORMAL SCHOOL, GORHAM, MAINE, MARCH 5, 1937

No. 3

Miss Beatrice Doughty Wins Short Story Award

"The Oracle" takes pleasure in announcing the results of the Short Story contest recently conducted by the Literary Department of "The Oracle."

The prize was awarded to Miss Beatrice Doughty of the Junior Class for her story "The Country Gentlemen" which was judged the best selection submitted.

Miss Doughty attended schools in Cumberland Mills and Westbrook High School. She has had wide experience in writing for school publications, including poetry for the Westbrook High School yearbook of which she was literary editor, and a column, "Big Things About Little Folks" which appeared in the Portland Evening Express in the high school page. She was also Freshman Editor of "The Oracle" and is a member of the Poetry Club, and Assistant Editor of the Green and White.

"The Oracle" also wishes to extend its appreciation to the judges, Miss Stone, Miss Keene, Miss Lewis, Mr. Woodward, and Mr. Sloat for their generous cooperation.

News! Oracle Collegiate Hop To Be March 19

Scoop: "The Oracle" Staff will entertain at a collegiate hop in Center, Friday evening, March 19th. It means an evening of dancing, good music, and columns and columns of fun. Students may invite outside guests if they wish. If you are interested, interview members of the board. Buy your tickets NOW.

Miss Ruby Steere, News Editor of this paper, is general chairman of the dance.

Mr. Woodward Guest Speaker At Poetry Club Tea

Mr. Louis B. Woodward was guest speaker at the Poetry Club meeting on February 17th in the Art Studio in Corthell Hall. His subject, "The Writing of Poetry" proved to be very valuable and instructive. Members of the audience were most enthusiastic over the program and all want "I Want To Go Out" for their various scrapbooks. This poem by Mr. Woodward is almost as popular as his favorite and often quoted "Why I Teach".

In Our Library

There have been many new books which have been added recently to our library. The following list is a few of the outstanding books. The science books are as follows: "Hawks of North America" by John B. May, "Astronomy for Laymen" by Frank Reh, "Consider the Heavens" by Forest Moulton, "The Child and the Universe" by Bertha Stevens.

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DOROTHY LEAVITT, KEN BROOKS HAVE LEADS IN "HOWLING DOG"



Miss Dorothy Leavitt

Etiquette Week Launched By Civic Committee

It is a well-established fact that young ladies and gentlemen in our schools are not always sensitive to those rules of behavior that determine the well-bred person and the courteous individual. Carelessness, thoughtlessness, and ignorance result in slight and sometimes major violations of even the simplest code of behavior.

The students of G. N. S. will have an opportunity to study and note the best rules of etiquette when committees made up of both teachers and students of the respective classes present their well-constructive program. The Civic Committee reports that the drive will begin March 1st and continue throughout the week. During this period the students will be subjected to etiquette tests, interesting and purposeful discussions, short skits and chapel programs.

The Civic Committee has on its main committee: Miss Hastings, Miss Wood, Miss Littlefield, Dr. Russell, Mr. Packard, Cecille Clement, Bertha Frost, Donald Cressey, and Howard Libby.

CALENDAR

- FEB. 26 Basketball game. Gorham versus Salem Teachers' College.
- MAR. 2 Tuesday. Faculty Club.
- MAR. 4 Thursday. Dramatic Club play "The Howling Dog".
- MAR. 5-6 Friday and Saturday. Sixth Annual Basketball Tourney.
- MAR. 19 "Oracle" Collegiate Hop. In Center.
- MAR. 23 Faculty Club.
- APR. 10 Beginning of Spring vacation.



Mr. Kenneth Brooks

Annual Dramatic Club Play To Be Presented March 4

The Dramatic Club of Gorham Normal under the supervision of Mr. Sloat, the faculty adviser, will present "The Howling Dog," a mystery play, March 4, in Russell Hall.

The scene is laid in Blackwood Manor, an old estate in the Adirondacks. Miss Dorothy Goodwin (Dorothy Leavitt) finds herself, through the will of an uncle, in possession of a very large and very haunted house. In her endeavor to tide the house of its undesirable occupants, Dorothy employs the aid of Milton Rogers (Kenneth Brooks), a professional ghost tamer and aviator.

To the exciting and rapid action of the play, humor is added by Venus and Andy, two colored servants about the manor. Thrills and chills will accompany the ghostly antics performed before your eyes to the tune of the dismal howling of a dog.

If you enjoy wholesome entertainment and hearty laughs, don't miss "The Howling Dog."

Members of the Club who are appearing in the cast are the Misses Welton, MacAllister, Greene and Eagles. Male members of the cast are: Messrs. Ken Brooks, Elliot Hawkes, C. Shay, L. Bridg-ham, Howard Libby and Arthur Boswell.

Local Basket Ball Squads To Be Guests Of G. N. S.

The sixth annual school-boy tournament conducted by Gorham Normal School will be held at Russell Hall Gymnasium on March 5 and 6. The tournament is to be under the direction of a committee made up of Dr. Russell, Mr. Wieden and Mr. Packard, and all of the faculty of Gorham Normal School. This committee will be assisted by the members of the Normal School Varsity Squad. Although at this time most of the

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Etiquette

We as future teachers must set an example which we would be proud to have our pupils follow. It is important therefore that we should at all times practice certain accepted forms of social behavior.

Etiquette is one of the outstanding characteristics which mark us as ladies and gentlemen. It is not enough that we know the correct things to do at certain times. The important thing is that we keep these things in mind and do them no matter whether we are at home with our families or away amongst strangers.

"We are known not by what we say but by what we do." This statement along with "Actions speak louder than words" helps us to realize the importance of etiquette, in daily, social and official life.

Can you truthfully say that you practice good forms of social behavior? Are you well-poised at all times? If not, why not take the time now to improve on these things?

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The purpose of this book is to show the power of the universe study to affect the thought and development of children. "A Guide to Bird Songs" by Aretes Saunders, "The American Eagle" by Francis Herrick.

The outstanding art books are as follows: "The Men of Art" by Thomas Craven, "History of American Painting" by Samuel Isham, "Composers of Today" by David Ewen.

The new reference books include: "The Statesmen Year Book 1936", "More First Facts", by Kane.

There are two outstanding history books "Lives In the Making" by Henry Newmann, "A History of American Life" by James T. Adams. This book has a succession of vivid pictures of the early eighteenth century.

An excellent travel book is "Travel to the South Seas" by Gifford Pinchot. This is a lavishly illustrated story of the cruise of the "Mary Pinchot" and her adventurous company.

The well known novel "Drums Along the Mohawk" by Edmonds may also be found in the library.

Alumni Flashes

Recent visitors at the school have been: John Rand '36 of Strong; Lawrence Furbush '36 attending Boston University; Walter Akerley '36 of Edward Little High, Auburn; Mary Lovejoy, Rita McDonald, Robert Tracy, and Mervin Rowe, all graduates in the class of '36.

Ralph Willis of the class of '36 is teaching in the Junior High School at Guilford.

Paul Chapman '36 is teaching Industrial Arts at Farmington Normal School during Miss Havey's leave of absence.

Helen Abbott '35 was recently on the Dean's List at Boston University.

Marriages of two members of the class of '35 have been announced; they are Bernice Nielsen, and Marion Parkman.

The Birdman

He is too poor: he cannot ride
In any aeroplane.
In threadbare coat he walks the street
In cold, in snow and rain.

He eats but little, needing much,
And yet he dares to share
The withered crust of bread he chews
With tenants of the air.

Swift-winged about him do they fly,
To perch upon his arm,
Secure that from his hands they eat
Nor need to think of harm.

He is too poor: he cannot go
Where other birdmen sing,
But through all Heaven fly his thoughts
Upon a pigeon's wing.

A. R.

In And Out — The Clubs

The commuters of G. N. S. enjoyed another lunch served by a committee of the Commuter's Club on Tuesday, January 19. The lunch was served in the Domestic Science room of Corthell Hall and the following committee was in charge: head ones, Doris Cunningham, Eldora Lidbeck; helpers, Mary Pederson, Virginia Bell and Minnie McKenney.

Mr. Wieden and Miss Wood were the faculty members present. One dormitory girl, Jane Christianson, was present at the lunch.

The dinner was very successful and as a result the committee voted to buy some new dish wipers in preparation for more lunches. It might interest everyone to know that the only "Knight at the Round Table" prepared especially for the faculty members was Mr. Wieden.

What a fine banquet! What banquet? Why the banquet sponsored by the Knox-Lincoln Club for the basketball teams of New Britain, Connecticut and Gorham Normal School, and held in the East Hall dining room on the fifth of February. There were forty present.

The table decorations consisted of a crepe paper fish net of deep blue water; candy favor cups made from clam shells with blue sails representing sail boats, and napkin rings representing life preservers. Each member present was given a sailor hat on which was pasted a different colored star.

The boys were welcomed by songs and the New Britain boys returned the songs with songs also. The boys and coaches made speeches and Miss Trask, the faculty adviser of the Knox-Lincoln Club told a very good fish story.

Esther West and Theresa Langevin had charge of the joint meeting of the Library Club and National Honor Society held last month. Esther West introduced the guest speaker, Miss Keene who spoke about her trip to Cape Cod and Provincetown. She showed some post cards and lovely photographs of sand dunes.

On February 12th the House Committee had a lecture and slide on Bermuda and "The Queen's Doll House" in the Y. W. C. A. Room. Miss Jordon was the lecturer.

Watch for the date of the Game Party to be sponsored by the Library Club next month. The committee in charge is as follows: Chairman, Ruth Orberton, Margaret McIntyre, Doris Cunningham and Gisele Plourde.

Faculty Facts

"The elements so mixed in him that Nature might stand up and say to all the world—

This is a man."

To the many students of G. N. S. who have so often wondered about the tall kindly man who mysteriously spends a part of his time behind two great sliding doors of Room 4, we shall impart a bit of information modestly and willingly given.

Mr. Woodward, the faculty member so closely associated with bottles, chemical aromas, curious-looking appliances—and gold-fish—is truly a part of Gorham Normal.

Entering our school as instructor in 1913, he has made it his home ever since. At various times he has taught Agriculture, Junior High Mathematics, Junior High Organization, Economics, School Law, Ethics, Social Psychology, and several branches of Science. Science is his main subject. With such a store of knowledge the students find him a valuable aid in helping them with their problems, both scientific and social.

His classes find that at times he exercises the unique faculty of making one feel comfortably ill at ease.

Mr. Woodward was graduated from Bridgton Academy and Bates College. At Bates he was a member of the track team. "But I never broke any records," he hastily adds.

After graduation he taught three years at Richmond High as Principal and then entered Harvard Law School for one year. He once hoped to be a lawyer, but how can years of success as an admired teacher, leave any room for regret?

He spent five summers at Harvard Summer School, receiving his M.A. degree in the Division of Philosophy.

During leisure moments he likes to make furniture. "It (the furniture) is nothing to be particularly proud of, certainly Mr. Brown would not think it remarkable!"

He is very fond of poetry and likes to write. His poem, "Why I Teach," is ample proof of this poetic talent.

Mr. Woodward spends his summers at Dresden, his boyhood home. There he lives in a little old farmhouse, surrounded by sixty acres of field and woodland; and he calls the place "Sky Farm." The extent of his farming is a "little gardening and growing blueberries, which grow themselves for the most part."

"I've nothing interesting to tell," he apologetically remarks—and there are no secrets in my life, not even my age."

Girls Honorary Varsity

Basketball Team Chosen

Under the leadership of Ann Gardner, the basketball season for the girls of Gorham Normal has come to a close. Ann, who is one of our star guards, has proven herself very efficient in her work as counselor.

One of the aims of Gorham Normal is to urge every student to participate in some sport. This aim was truly fulfilled in basketball this year as is shown by the following list of participants: Misses

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The Country Gentleman

It wasn't such a big farm, but it belonged to them. From the far cornfield where the gangling scarecrow stood with waving arms, to the low stonewall which separated the farm from the sandy country road, it was theirs, and they loved it. They loved the little farmhouse, the long shed, and big barn, the tinkling brook that ran gayly from the clump of tall friendly fir trees, the orchard and the gardens, and, yes indeed, that sacred spot under the old apple tree where a dozen weather-beaten tombstones kept mute record of the generations and proved that Johannes was not the first of that name to own the little farm.

Yes, it belonged to them, and of course it always would, and yet—Johannes was jerked unceremoniously out of his musings by a clear voice calling from the door of the white farmhouse.

"Johann - es, Joh - ann - e - s."

"Yes, yes, Isabelle. What do you want?" was the reluctant answer.

"Everyday for over thirty years I've heard you brag about the easy plowing and the big results of this farm. I've been watching you from the kitchen window and you've plowed that row you're starting up, three different times. Come here a minute, I want to talk to you."

Johannes let go his hold on the handles of the plow and walked slowly up the path to the house.

"Are you still worrying about those railroad people?" Isabelle asked sharply.

"Well - er - ah."

"Don't lie now."

"I suppose so."

"But Johannes, I thought you said if we didn't want to sell, they couldn't make us."

"Well, I did, but I got to thinking and I don't know. That man who called to see us knows more about such things than I do, and you know he said they could make us."

"But Johannes, perhaps he just said it to scare us."

"Let's hope so. The price he named was more than the farm is worth. He said that we should sell to help the progress of industry."

"You know we couldn't get a price large enough for this farm, Johannes."

Johannes put his arm around her and together they sat down on the doorstep.

"No," he acknowledged, "there couldn't be another farm like this anywhere."

Isabelle rose suddenly with an exclamation of surprise, "Who's that coming up the road?"

Johannes straightened his spectacles which Isabelle had knocked off and stood up grumbling. Squinting his eyes, he remarked dryly, "Whoever he is, he's sure mad about something."

The stranger was short but sturdy of build. His partly gray hair was rumpled. His perfectly tailored suit was wrinkled and dusty, and his sleeves were rolled to the elbows. There was a streak of grease running from the end of one eye to the opposite cheek.

His red face was beaded with perspiration, while before him he carefully piloted two black, grease-covered hands. Angrily he drew the tips of two fingers across a silk handkerchief which protruded from his pocket. Then he proceeded to the trying task of picking a calling card out of his coat pocket without putting his hands inside. Rescuing it at length, he handed it to Johannes with an amusing attempt at dignity, saying crisply, "Mr. Lorentzen, President of the Indiana branch of Railroad."

Johannes took the card, and looking bewildered, turned it over two or three times. Then he handed it to Isabelle, who glanced at it and hesitated, started to pass it to Johannes, hesitated doubtfully, then proffered it to Mr. Lorentzen, who scowled impatiently and gave it back to Johannes.

The flash of puzzlement which covered Isabelle's face for a moment was soon changed to a smile of pleasant hospitality. "My name is Isabelle and this is my husband, Johannes. Come right in and make yourself at home while I get some water for you to wash your hands in."

With relief, Mr. Lorentzen followed Isabelle as she led the way into the house. Johannes trailed after, still staring at the tiny white card with a puzzled frown on his face.

Isabelle suggested briskly, "Johannes, bring the best chair out and then start the fire. Mr. Lorentzen, you wash up while I get supper."

Soon the fire was roaring merrily in the kitchen stove, and Mr. Lorentzen was seated comfortably in the best chair, looking very presentable in Johannes' bathrobe and slippers.

Later, as Mr. Lorentzen rose from the supper table, he experienced blissful feelings of utter contentment. He had not enjoyed a meal so much for many years. How good it seemed to eat with such pleasant people in comfortable clothes, and the food—well—you couldn't buy food like that anywhere.

After the dishes were cleared away Mr. Lorentzen suggested, "I suppose you have been wondering where I came from and how I happened to look disheveled when you saw me. The fact is, I had some important business to attend to out this way and as this was my chauffeur's day off, I undertook to drive the car out here myself. Down the road a way I had trouble. It took me an hour to discover that I was out of gas."

Johannes and Isabelle laughed heartily. Isabelle replied, "Well, we're glad it happened so we could meet you. You spend the night here and tomorrow Johannes can take you back to town—that is, if you don't mind riding in a buggy."

Mr. Lorentzen's relief was obvious as he replied, "I'll certainly appreciate it, and it will save me a lot of trouble. I still have some business to attend to."

"Johannes, you show Mr. Lorentzen his room," she directed, turning to Mr. Lorentzen to explain.

"We go to bed early in the country, so we can rise early in the morning and get the chores done. Get the lamp from the kitchen, Johannes. This one's most out of oil."

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Mr. Lorentzen stirred uneasily. How he hated to open his eyes! Slowly his heavy lids opened. The sun! It was the sun shining into his bedroom, into his eyes, in fact! Very reluctantly he sat up. A quilt on his bed too—and himself! A flannel night-shirt! He carefully let himself back on the pillow and, shutting his eyes, sleepily murmured, "I'll not take any chances with this dream."

At half past eleven, Mr. Lorentzen appeared rather shamefacedly in the doorway of the kitchen and explained, "I just couldn't resist the temptation of a good sleep without a business date at eight o'clock to worry about."

From her breadboard Isabelle glanced up smilingly, "That's all right. Johannes is working in the garden. He wants me to send you out so he can show it to you. You'll have to excuse us, but work on a farm must go on."

Two o'clock found all of them gathered around the dinner table. During the conversation Mr. Lorentzen asked, "I suppose you know most of your neighbors, don't you?" Isabelle laughed as she exclaimed, "Land sakes, yes. Johannes can name all the people that's lived around here since he was a boy."

"Do a man and woman live near here whose name is Lane?"

Isabelle and Johannes stared at Mr. Lorentzen in astonishment. Johannes recovered first and asked curiously, "What's his first name?"

"Why — I don't know — wait a minute — I've a card. The initials are J. T."

Johannes cleared his throat, adjusted his spectacles, and stammered, "That's — that's me."

It was now Mr. Lorentzen's turn to be astonished. With unbelieving eyes he stared first at Johannes and then at Isabelle. He swallowed hard, and exclaimed, "You're joking me." Then at their sober faces, his too straightened as he demanded, "How soon can you take me to town, Mr. Lane?"

Johannes answered the unexpected question uncertainly, "Why — er — why — any time you want to go."

"Right now?"

"Right now."

Two hours later Johannes returned from his trip. He looked regretful as he handed Isabelle the check Mr. Lorentzen had hurriedly thrust into his hand at parting.

"What's the matter Johannes?" Isabelle asked.

"Oh, I just wanted to ask Mr. Lorentzen a question before he left."

"What was it?"

"Well, I was wondering what he gave me that little white card for, the first time he saw me."

In the office of Mr. Bishop, his partner, Mr. Lorentzen was saying, "I've decided we don't need that new territory for the railroad."

"But—but—I thought you were the one who convinced us that it was necessary," exclaimed Bishop.

"Didn't you say you were driving out to see about it when our agent failed to get the people's approval?"

"Well, I've changed my mind since then."

"But why?"

"Well, I think there are some things this world needs more than railroads."

"Such as?"

"Such as home made quilts, feather beds, and flannel night shirts!"

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small schools of Cumberland and York Counties have not finished their schedules, it is possible to get a fairly good line-up of the teams.

The rules set up for tournament admittance were as follows: (1) the first and second and third place winners of the major division of the Cumberland County Conference were to be admitted; (2) the winner of the minor division of this conference was to be admitted; (3) the first and second place winners of both divisions of the York County League were to be admitted.

Buxton and Cornish High Schools have both clinched tournament berths by taking the first two places in the Central York Loop. Likewise, Kennebunk and York High Schools, winner and runner-up, in the Southern York League, are in. Gorham and Standish have won the two top places in the major division of the CCC but the third tournament position is still undecided, with Cape Elizabeth and Falmouth High Schools fighting for it. Windham and Freeport High Schools are at present tied for leadership of the minor division of the Triple C, but this deadlock will be decided when they collide next Tuesday. The winner of this clash will

automatically enter the Gorham tourney.

Gorham and Standish High Schools, two teams who are entered this year in the tournament, each have two legs on the Russell Trophy which will be awarded to the team winning the tournament the most times in ten years, and the struggle between these two for a lead in the race toward it should be well worth watching.

To date, no York County team has ever won this tournament, but this year York High School enters the tournament with a very impressive record.

Trophies and individual medals are awarded to both the winners and runners-up, while bronze medallions are given to all other participants in the tournament.

The record of previous tournaments:

- 1932. Winner—Standish High School
Runner-up—Gorham High School
- 1933. Winner—Gorham High School
Runner-up—Buxton High School
- 1934. Winner—Gorham High School
Runner-up—Falmouth High School
- 1935. Winner—Cape Elizabeth High School
Runner-up—Standish High School
- 1936. Winner—Standish High School
Runner-up—Gorham High School

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Berry, Brown, Bickford, Billings, Blake, J. Brown, A. Gardener, L. Grimble, E. Hadley, A. Hall, Infiorate, Margaret Johnson, T. Langevin, M. McEachern, M. McPhetres, B. Merriman, Pinkham, Peabody, Peavy, Scott, Sherman, Spink, Thayer, Wiggin, Rankin, H. Knight, A. Rowe, J. Woodward, A. Welton, E. Atwood, Doughty and G. Baker.

A series of hard fought, exciting games between the Juniors and Freshmen ended with the Freshmen declared victorious.

Freshman team members: D. Wiggin, D. Peavy, Captain R. Brown, E. Sherman, J. Brown and J. Billings.

Junior team: A. Gardener, A. Rowe, M. Johnson, H. Thayer, Captain A. Bickford and H. Scott.

In order to earn twenty-five points for participating in this activity, it is necessary to attend a certain per cent of the practices and games. The girls who earned their twenty-five points are: Misses Scott, Thayer, Bickford, Wiggin, Johnson, Gardener, Rowe, Peavy, Sherman and Billings.

At the close of the season an Honorary Varsity Team is chosen. This year it is made up of the following girls: Forwards — Wiggin, Scott, Thayer; guards—Johnson, Gardner and Rowe.